NCT of Delhi has informed that all the private hospitals do not have mandatory requirement of treating a stipulated percentage of patients free. However, some hospitals which have been allotted land on concessional rate by Delhi Development Authority with condition to provide free treatment to the weaker section of the society are required to provide free treatment to a stipulated percentage of patients.

Amendment in Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971

2534. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, to enable easy access to the abortion pill;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendment;

(c) whether Government propose to issue any guideline for launching the abortion pill in the Family Welfare Programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, does not mention any specific method of abortion. However, Government of India is in the process of amending the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 1975, wherein, besides other issues, Rules for facilitating easy access to abortion pills for safe abortions are also being considered.

(c) and (d) Currently, abortion pills are not being used as part of the Family Welfare Programme. However, in order to promote rational use of these pills, guidelines have been prepared with the help of experts.

Ban on sale of junk food

2535. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that junk food satisfy taste buds and have no nutritive value;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering a ban on sale of junk food in school/college canteens to avoid the situation going out of hand; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bring awareness so that the consumer themselves avoid taking junk food, the demand of which is increasing?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Junk food has not been defined under the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. The manufacture and sale of ready-to eat food in small/big restaurants, street food, railway stations are available to meet the growing need of consumers.

There is no proposal to ban the manufacture and sale of these products.

(c) It is always the endeavour of the Government to promote healthy life styles, which also include proper food nutrition.

Capitation fee

†2536. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Medical Colleges in the country are charging a huge amount from students as capitation fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the eligible students who are unable to pay capitation fee are deprived of admission in the medical colleges; and

(d) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) With a view to prevent the commercialization of medical education, and also to prevent private medical colleges from charging capitation fees, the Supreme Court

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.